

as a functioning market economy." Clearly, Slovenia has met this candidacy requirement.

#### (2) DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL SYSTEM

Slovenia has a vibrant parliamentary democracy characterized by peaceful and meaningful political debate. Elections are free, fair, and open. There is an independent judiciary.

As the U.S. State Department's Report on Human Rights Practices for 1998 mentioned, "the press is a vigorous institution" and "in theory and practice, the media enjoy full freedom in their journalistic pursuits."

Further, the Report states that "the Government respects the human rights of its citizens, and the law and judiciary provide adequate means of dealing with individual instances of abuse." Slovenia has met the NATO candidacy requirement.

#### (3) COMMITMENT TO OSCE

With regards to Slovenia's role in the international community thus far, it is a member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, OSCE, the Council of Europe, NATO's Partnership for Peace and Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund as well as the World Bank.

Property rights concerns that had existed with Italy were resolved in 1996 with the Association Agreement between Slovenia and the European Union. Slovenia has again met the NATO candidacy requirement.

#### (4) CIVILIAN CONTROL OVER MILITARY

Since Slovenia had not fielded a military prior to its independence, ensuring civilian control was not as problematic as it might have been otherwise.

Specifically, the armed forces are controlled by the civilian defense minister while the legislative branch plays an oversight role. The NATO candidacy requirement has been met.

#### (5) ABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO NATO'S COLLECTIVE DEFENSE AND MISSIONS

While Slovenia has more than exceeded the other requirements for NATO membership, there have been some criticisms regarding its ability to contribute to NATO's collective defense as well as future NATO missions.

Slovenia's population is just under 2 million people. This reality limits the viable size of its armed forces.

In response to this challenge, Slovenia has focused on developing a professional force that is smaller in size than many of the NATO aspirants but which may be more effective in the field.

To that end, Slovenia has set defense spending at 1.89 percent of its GDP—which I might add is a higher percentage than a number of current NATO member countries. Plans are in place to raise this to 2.3 percent by the year 2003.

Thus far, these monies have largely been spent on air defense, antiarmor weapons and communications equipment that are designed to be interoper-

able with existing NATO forces and equipment.

While Slovenia's forces are comparatively small in size, they have been actively involved in a variety of international operations over the years. Slovenia is involved in peacekeeping missions in Albania, the NATO-led Stabilization Force in Bosnia (SFOR) and United Nations efforts in Cyprus.

Finally, Slovenia has expressed its willingness to participate in any NATO deployment initiated to promote peace in Kosovo. Again, Slovenia has met difficult challenges to achieve NATO membership and has responded creatively and positively.

#### ECONOMIC INTEREST TO AMERICA

Let me point out that in addition to these strategic foreign policy concerns, there is a very real economic interest for the United States in bringing Slovenia further into the international community.

During the 1992 through 1997 time period, U.S. exports to Slovenia increased by 197 percent. Over the same period, Ohio's exports have increased a staggering 220 percent.

#### TRADE WITH OHIO

In an effort to further develop these trade ties, as Governor of the State of Ohio, I had the opportunity to lead two trade missions of business leaders to Slovenia in 1993 and 1995. Soon after these missions, Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company of Akron, OH, made the largest direct U.S. investment in Slovenian history. The inclusion of Slovenia in the NATO community would provide an important incentive for this type of trading relationship in the future.

#### CONCLUSION

Our nation is on a path to enlarge NATO and ensure that the freedom and prosperity that western Europe has enjoyed for decades spreads to the nations of central and eastern Europe.

With those goals in mind, we must support Slovenia's entrance into NATO. And there is no perfect time than this, the 50th Anniversary of NATO summit to let the people of Slovenia, as well as the rest of Europe, know that their democratic changes, economic reforms and military modernization will be rewarded with full participation in the international community.

Mr. President, with your permission, I will make a statement in regard to one of Ohio's outstanding citizens who is celebrating his 80th birthday.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### 80TH BIRTHDAY OF CARL LINDNER

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, today, my dear friend, and one of Ohio's and America's most successful businessmen, Carl Lindner, is celebrating his 80th birthday. I extend to him my sincere best wishes.

Carl got his business start in 1940, founding United Dairy Farmers along

with his father and his brothers, Bob and Dick and his sister Dorothy.

From that first beginning, Carl Lindner fine-tuned his business acumen and has never looked back. As he says, "only in America." Today, he is chairman of the board and chief executive officer and founder of American Financial Group, one of our Nation's largest insurance firms.

He is also chairman of the board and CEO of Chiquita Brands International as well as the Great American Group of Insurance Companies.

He is active in a number of organizations and institutions in the Cincinnati area and in Washington.

He is the recipient of numerous awards and accolades—and there are a number of them—including the Golden Plate Award by the American Academy of Achievement in 1978. He is also a 33rd degree Mason and is the recipient of the Van Rensselaer Medal—one of only 14 people worldwide to receive such a distinction.

In 1998, he was awarded the Gourgas Medal, which is the most distinguished honor given by the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite "in recognition of notably distinguished service in the cause of Freemasonry, country or humanity."

A religious man, Carl Lindner has given of himself to those of faiths other than his own. In 1989, the Hebrew Union College awarded Carl the Jewish Institute of Religion Interfaith Award. In 1995 he received the Jewish National Fund's International Peace Award—the highest international honor and award given by the Jewish National Fund.

Carl's civic and business accomplishments run the gamut, from the Friars Club's Centennial Award in 1985 to the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America's "Silver Beaver" award in 1995 to the Distinguished Service Citation by the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

He has also been inducted into the Greater Cincinnati Business Hall of Fame and the Junior Achievement National Business Hall of Fame. Further, in 1997, he received the Heritage Award from the Cincinnati Urban League.

Carl Lindner is also a great believer in quality education, and has devoted his time, energy and resources to encourage students and provide them with institutions in which to learn. His service and generosity have earned him three honorary doctorates from Judson College in 1983, the University of Cincinnati in 1985 and Xavier University in 1991. He was also presented with the Lincoln Award from Northern Kentucky University in 1993.

In addition, the College of Business Administration at the University of Cincinnati is housed in Carl Lindner Hall and the school has established the Carl Lindner Annual Medal for Outstanding Business Achievement and a new honors program—the Carl Lindner Honors-Plus program. Xavier University has dedicated the Carl Lindner Family Physics Building. Carl and his

wife Edyth are also major benefactors of Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy, a school founded by their son, Carl Lindner III.

The generosity of Carl and Edyth Lindner has been felt by the Cincinnati Zoo with its Lindner Family Center for Reproduction of Endangered Wildlife, the Museum Center with its Lindner Ice Age Exhibit, the Health Alliance of Cincinnati with its Lindner Center for Clinical Cardiovascular Research Center, and the Scottish Rite with its Lindner Learning Center.

Carl Lindner's success in business is only surpassed by his outstanding service to his fellow man. He is not a man to point to his achievements; people only know a fraction of what he has contributed to the community. He has given to scores of charities that no one knows about, and he gives because he has a tremendous heart. In fact, he goes out of his way to avoid publicity.

I will never forget that when in 1996 the gambling interests in the country were trying to bring casino gambling into Ohio. As the Governor, I didn't think it was in the best interest of the State to have casino gambling, that the liabilities far outweighed the benefits. Those in favor of gambling were spending money like water on advertising. I wanted to oppose it, but I didn't have the money to match even a fraction of what they were spending. I called upon Carl Lindner.

I explained to him the other side of the story on gambling and why we needed to keep it out of Ohio. Fortunately, I didn't have to convince him. He, too, agreed that gambling was not the way for Ohio and he offered whatever assistance we needed to ensure that gambling did not come to our state. The proponents of gambling fought hard, but we fought back thanks to Carl. And we won—two-thirds of the voters rejected casino gambling in Ohio. I will say today on the Senate floor, without Carl Lindner's help we would not have won that battle.

It is because of his selflessness and humility that I felt it important to rise on the Senate floor today to pay tribute to this great American. There are few people in this nation who have the kind of strength of their beliefs that Carl Lindner has, and usually they end at people's wallets, but Carl backs up his beliefs with his support both in time and money. We need more people in this country like Carl Lindner.

And one more thing that impresses me about Carl is his relationship with his wonderful family. Carl rejoices in his marvelous family, his children and particularly his wife, Edyth. Edyth has been a wonderful partner of his over the years, and they have a great marriage. And I know Carl is especially proud of his sons. As a father, I understand that so often the successes of our children surpasses anything we do in our own right.

Mr. President, there are few Americans I know who have done as much

and have given as much to their nation as Carl Lindner. I have been truly blessed with his friendship and I am inspired by his warmth and humility, and Mr. President, if you look up humility in the dictionary, there should be a picture of Carl Lindner. May Carl and his beloved family celebrate many more birthdays together.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

(The remarks of Mr. BINGAMAN pertaining to the introduction of S. 864 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BINGAMAN addressed the Chair.

#### YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT AND THE CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I want to make a very short comment on two measures that comprise a basic cornerstone for the efforts that I made to ensure that the fundamental needs of children in my State of New Mexico and throughout the country are met.

The basic idea here is that children have to have, if they are going to grow into full and honorable adulthood, access to quality, affordable health care. A child who is sick cannot go to school, and cannot be expected to learn in school, and cannot be expected to grow up and thrive and go on to be a productive citizen. In New Mexico, we have a particularly compelling case because the Children's Defense Fund, this last year, identified our State as having a higher number of uninsured children than any other State in the Union—uninsured for health care insurance. Consequently, I have two measures that try to address this need.

The first deals with a problem that has sadly become an epidemic in New Mexico; it is the Youth Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. This is designed to increase access to drug prevention and treatment services for young people in the country.

Second is the Children's Dental Health Improvement Act, which is designed to increase access to dental services for young people, particularly young people who are eligible to participate in Medicaid.

Mr. President, I will be introducing both of those bills and I commend them to my colleagues. I hope they will also get a full hearing this Congress and that we can enact them into law and send them to the President as well.

Mr. GRAHAM addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Bryan Giddings, Kelly Maher, Leesa Washington, Suzanne Matwyshen, and Jor-

dan Coyle be granted floor privileges for the duration of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Florida is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. GRAHAM pertaining to the introduction of S. 868 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, what is the pending parliamentary situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is conducting morning business and Senators may speak for up to 15 minutes each.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the distinguished Presiding Officer. I believe this is the first time I have spoken when the Senator from Illinois has been in the Chair. I appreciate the opportunity.

#### SCHOOL VIOLENCE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, we are all grieving again for victims of school violence. Pearl High School in Pearl, MS; Heath High School in West Paducah, KY; Westside Middle School in Jonesboro, AR; Parker Middle School in Edinboro, PA; Lincoln County High School in Fayetteville, TN; Thurston High School in Springfield, OR; and Columbine High School in Littleton, CO.

The President spoke for all Americans Tuesday night when he expressed the shock and sadness of the Nation. He spoke about reaching out to our children and our prayers for the families of those who have suffered loss.

I heard Senator KENNEDY reach out to the families yesterday from the Senate floor. I commend Senator DASCHLE also for his thoughtful statement. I know other Senators from both sides of the aisle have spoken to this tragedy, as well.

This morning, my wife and I watched on television one of the most painful and difficult interviews I have ever watched. The father of a young African American boy killed in Colorado spoke of his hopes and dreams for his son. Sitting next to him was another student, who is white and who recounted how his classmate and friend, an African American, had died, how he had been selected because he was black and because he was an athlete. To compound the tragedy, the young man who had spoken also recounted the fact that his own sister died in the shooting. It ended with the African American father holding the hand of the